

NAVAL BASE CHARLESTON  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETING

Minutes of 9 February 1999  
Live Oak Community Center  
2012 Success Street  
North Charleston, SC

**RAB Members Attending**

Tony Hunt	Southern Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Navy Co-Chair
Dann Spariosu	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Bob Veronese	SPAWAR
Henry Shepard II	Navy Caretaker Site Office
Ann Clark	SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
Lou Mintz	Community Co-Chair
Bobby Dearhart	Charleston Environmental Detachment
Arthur Pinckney	
Wannetta Mallette	

**Guests Attending**

Mr. Paul M. Bergstrand	SCDHEC
Mr. David Dodds	Southern Division
Mr. Eric Cathcart	SCDHEC
Mr. Keith Johns	EnSafe
Mr. J. Michael Reubish	Citizen

**Introduction of the RAB Members and Guests**

Tony Hunt, Navy Co-Chair, brought the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Member and audience introductions were made.

**Administrative Remarks and Discussion of Last Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Hunt noted that the minutes from the December meeting were attached to the agenda for the night. He urged members to call him with any comments or changes to the minutes before he finalized and distributed them.

Mr. Hunt then encouraged visitors to ask questions and participate.

## **Subcommittee Reports**

### Community Relations Subcommittee

Lou Mintz said that the fact sheet on the radiological cleanup of the base had been completed and was to be distributed soon. Mr. Mintz then introduced the concept of a membership subcommittee to review attendance and participation requirements for RAB members. He mentioned that this may be a good method of increasing the involvement of community RAB members.

At this point, there was some discussion of the Chicora Tank Farm property cleanup and transfer. While the North Charleston Board of Education had expressed verbal interest in acquiring the property, nothing official had been received by the Navy at this point. Oliver Addison reported that while he had prompted the Board of Education to submit a letter of interest to the Navy, he would contact Mr. Cobb to follow up on this issue.

Mr. Mintz expressed the concern of the subcommittee that attendance, by community RAB members and the public, had reached a new low. Suggestions for increasing attendance included the following:

- calling all members prior to the next meeting.
- an “Open House” or other event,
- Navy personnel in uniform at RAB meetings to demonstrate the Navy’s commitment to the project.

This last item was subject to some discussion. Henry Shepard noted that he occupies the position formerly held by the Navy’s uniformed representative to the RAB, and that the Navy’s commitment to the process was not altered by the reassignment of duties. Other concerns were that the additional person would not be as knowledgeable as the experts in attendance and that they would not be able to bring additional value to the meeting. Mr. Hunt agreed to bring this concern to the attention his Commanding Officer.

There were no other subcommittee reports.

## **Update from the Charleston Environmental Detachment**

Arthur Pinckney inquired about the status of the Environmental Detachment. Mr. Dearhart reported that the Detachment is to lose its government funding on September 11, 1999. He said that they are working toward maintaining the Detachment as an entity beyond that date, however. In response to a question, Mr. Dearhart said that the Detachment is not used exclusively at the Charleston site, but wherever they are needed. They provide a cost-effective alternative for certain kinds of work. He also reported that approximately 70% of the people employed by the Detachment are North Charleston residents.

## **Environmental Cleanup Progress Report**

Mr. Tony Hunt presented the progress of environmental cleanup at the Chicora Tank Farm since the last RAB meeting (December).

The Environmental Detachment is in the process of cleaning out the tanks. There had been a problem with disposing of the oil removed from the tanks, but that has been remedied. The Detachment is fully funded for demolishing the tanks, and there is a schedule in place for that to happen. Mr. Hunt reiterated the community's concern that the Board of Education or some other entity may not be interested in the property. Without interest from qualified agencies, the Navy would be overextending its authority in demolishing the tanks, and would be limited to cleaning and filling the tanks. This, he pointed out, is why it is important to the community that the Navy receive official letter(s) of interest from the Board of Education and other interested agencies.

In response to a question, Mr. Dearhart reported that, if a notice to proceed is delivered, the Detachment should be able to have all the tanks demolished by September 11, 1999 (when they cease to be a government entity). He added that it may be difficult to complete Tank O if the notice is not received soon.

In response to another question, Mr. Dearhart said that the demolition rubble was not enough to completely fill the empty tanks. Clean fill must be brought in from other locations.

### Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Sites

Mr. David Dodds (Southern Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command) presented updates on several of the sites (solid waste management units – SWMUs, and Areas of Concern – AOCs) identified as part of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit.

AOC 67 and SWMU 166: Treatability studies are under way at these sites to see how two technologies might work on the chlorinated solvents detected in the groundwater at the base. The pumping tests (which help determine the rate at which groundwater can reasonably be pumped out of the ground) are complete at these two sites. Different remedies are being proposed for each site:

- AOC 67: Soil-vapor extraction is being proposed for this site. This is the process of injecting steam into the ground at the perimeter of the contaminated soil, and drawing it up through a well located at the center of the site. The steam is intended to help volatilize the contaminants from the soil and carry it to the extraction well where it is removed and treated.
- SWMU 166: A combination aerobic/anaerobic remedy is being proposed. This combines several different techniques of altering the oxygen content in the groundwater either up or down by injecting different non-toxic materials into the water. The high (aerobic) or low (anaerobic) conditions are favorable for different types of microorganisms that break down these chlorinated solvents. The combination remedy is expected to hasten the breakdown of the contaminants. Wells have been installed at both locations to monitor the progress of the remedies. In addition, piezometers (which measure groundwater flow) have been installed. These are needed for accuracy in measuring where the water is flowing, and how fast.

Other sites:

- Zone K – Mr. Dodds reported that the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Report had been submitted to the regulators for additional comments.
- Zone I – Final RFI Report is to be submitted in the near future.
- Zones A, C, and H – Treatability studies are under way at these sites.
- Basewide – Groundwater studies are taking place throughout the base.

Mr. Mintz asked about six wells, placed very close together in one area, that he noticed at SWMU 166. Mr. Dodds responded that, as part of the treatability study, it was important to know how the groundwater is flowing in relation to the extraction well. Therefore six wells were placed in two sets of three wells, with each of the three at different depths (approximately 12, 25 and 70 feet below the surface) where groundwater flow information was needed. These wells will not be used as part of the “pump and treat” portion of the remedy, but may likely be used as part of the monitoring program in the future. Special wells are used for the soil-vapor extraction.

In response to a question about the length of time the wells will remain in place, Mr. Dodds replied that they will be “abandoned” (properly closed) before the property is transferred, if the site is considered environmentally suitable for transfer and the wells are no longer needed. Dann Spariosu added that the Partnering Team agreed to abandon a large number of wells that were no longer needed.

In response to a question about soil that is removed, Mr. Dodds said that soil is taken to a licensed landfill, based on sampling of the soil, and not left on the base.

#### Findings of Suitability to Transfer and Lease

Mr. Hunt then provided a briefing on Findings of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) and Findings of Suitability to Lease (FOSL).

The Redevelopment Authority had requested FOSTs for three parcels of land:

- Marina
- CU property
- Chicora Tank Farm

Mr. Hunt explained that all FOSTs are supported by site-specific studies of the current environmental condition of the site. This study is called an Environmental Baseline Survey for Transfer (EBST). EBST studies have been started for all parcels not contaminated by hazardous materials. This does not include asbestos or lead-based paint.

Mr. Mintz asked if the Navy had looked at a new technique, demonstrated in the past week in Charleston, for covering lead-based paint. Mr. Dearhart said that they were reviewing that technology, and would report on that technology, and lead-based paint in the housing at the next meeting.

## Closing Remarks

Mr. Hunt asked for volunteers to serve on the new membership committee, whose task it will be to take on the issue of supplementing or replacing existing members. Lou Mintz, Bob Veronese, Tony Hunt and Bobby Dearhart volunteered. Mr. Spariosu suggested that the Community Relations coordinator from U.S. EPA, Tiki Whitfield, may want to participate.

In a brief general discussion, several points and suggestions were made regarding membership and attendance.

- Some new members could come from the applications received at the formation of the RAB. Mr. Hunt will try to locate those applications.
- Send letters to those members who have not attended meetings in the last six months. The letters should explain that their seat is to be replaced, as per the RAB Charter. The general agreement among those in attendance was that this was appropriate.

A discussion on meeting location and frequency followed.

- Rotate meeting locations, as was done in the past. Mr. Hunt suggested that the meetings continue to be at the Live Oak Community Center while the Chicora Tank Farm is still a significant issue to this community.
- More frequent meetings were suggested. Those present generally agreed that this may be appropriate for when studies are concluding and remedies are being reviewed.

After these discussions, it was agreed that the board would approach the issue of membership first, followed by meeting frequency.

A point was made that there has not been much controversy to cause interest independently. It was suggested that this was a result of the parties (Navy, SCDHEC, USEPA, and community) working well together. Other suggestions for increased visibility and local interest were made:

- the RAB may want to look at sponsoring school programs, or
- perhaps a tie-in between the Chicora Tank Farm and the nearby Magnet School.

Mr. Hunt encouraged members of the RAB or the general community to provide suggestions and specific questions to RAB. Mr. Pinckney suggested updating the board on status of the answers to the questions he submitted several years ago.

Agenda topics for the next meeting were discussed. The following were tentatively slated for the next RAB meeting, in April.

- Environmental Progress Report
- Report from the Environmental Detachment
- Membership
- Zone J

## **Comments and Questions**

A question was asked about the status of two issues: the radar station and Hess. Mr. Dodds pointed out the radar station (trichloroethene in groundwater) is part of SWMU 166, which was covered earlier. Mr. Dodds also responded to the question on Hess Oil. Hess is almost through with their remediation of pure petroleum product in the soil, using a vapor extraction technique. They have not yet addressed the contamination in groundwater that has extended 300-400 feet onto Navy property, although some data has been taken from Navy property. Mr. Dodds reported that, while the issue is not yet resolved, Hess has been very cooperative so far.

In response to a question about the involvement of SCDHEC in the Hess Oil issue, Ann Clark reported that their involvement has not been needed. Mr. Paul Bergstrand (SCDHEC) noted that he is in regular contact with the geologist working for Hess on this project, and they are working on approving a work plan.

## **Election of Community Co-Chair**

This action was postponed until the April meeting

**Meeting adjourned.**

*Editor's note: the next meeting of the RAB will be on Tuesday, April 13, 1999, at the Live Oak Community Center, North Charleston. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m.*